

What is claimed is:

1. In an ATM network comprised of a plurality of ATM data routes through one or more ATM switches through which one or more PVCs can be established to route data between end points, said PVCs being automatically re-configured to optimize data flow through said ATM data routes, a method of controlling data loss to a data stream attributable to automatic re-configuration of said PVCs comprising:

- a) identifying a PVC for a data stream at a first period of time;
- b) recording the occurrence of an automatic PVC re-configuration for said data stream through said ATM network; and
- c) inhibiting a second automatic re-configuration of said PVC through said ATM network until after the occurrence of a predetermined event.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined event is the passage of a predetermined length of time.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined event is the addition of at least one additional ATM data route through a switch of said ATM network through which said data stream passes.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said second automatic re-configuration of said PVC through said ATM network, is controlled by said at least one additional ATM switch.

5. The method of claim 1 further including the step of manually affecting said second automatic re-configuration of said PVC through said ATM network.

6. In an ATM network comprised of a plurality of ATM data routes through one or more ATM switches through which one or more PVCs can be established to route data between end points, said PVCs being automatically re-configured to optimize data flow through said ATM data routes, an apparatus for controlling data loss to a data stream attributable to automatic re-configuration of said PVCs comprising:

- a) means for identifying a PVC for a data stream at a first period of time;
- b) means for recording the occurrence of an automatic PVC reconfiguration for said data stream through said ATM network; and
- c) means for inhibiting a second automatic re-configuration of said PVC through said ATM network until after the occurrence of a predetermined event.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said means for identifying a PVC for a data stream is comprised of at least one ATM switching system.

8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said means for identifying a PVC for a data stream is comprised of at least one controller that is part of an ATM switching system.

9. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said means for recording the occurrence of an automatic PVC re-configuration for said data stream is comprised of at least one ATM switching system.

10. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said means for inhibiting a second automatic re-configuration of said PVC through said ATM network until after the occurrence of a predetermined event is comprised of at least one ATM switching system.

11. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said means for identifying a PVC for a data stream is comprised of a processor.

12. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said means for recording the occurrence of an automatic PVC re-configuration for said data stream is comprised of a processor.

13. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said means for inhibiting a second automatic re-configuration of said PVC through said ATM network until after the occurrence of a predetermined event is comprised of a processor.